

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 5, lines 4-5, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Fig. 2 is a schematic which represents regulation of platelet and HSC production in accordance with the method of the present invention (Left column: SEQ ID NOS 1-4, 1, 2, and 5-12; middle column: SEQ ID NOS 13-17, 17, and 18-24; right column: SEQ ID NOS 1-2, 25-30, 29, 31, and 32, respectively in order of appearance).

Please delete the paragraph on page 7, lines 8-9, and replace it with the following paragraph:

A particularly preferred TPO mimetic peptide is I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R A (SEQ ID NO: 33).

Please delete the paragraph on page 7, lines 10-20, and replace it with the following paragraph:

In another embodiment, the TPO mimetic peptide is dimerized or oligomerized to increase the affinity and/or activity of the compound. An example of such a compound includes (SEQ ID NO: 34):

I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R A – X₁₀

K(NH₂)

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I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R A – X₁₀

where X₁₀ is a sarcosine or β-alanine residue or a pegylated form of this compound. The pegylated form may include a 20k MPEG residue covalently linked to each N-terminal isoleucine.